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Kirkbymoorside  
20<sup>th</sup> Feby 1895.

Gentlemen.

The following is my twenty first Annual report as Medical Officer of Health for the Rural sanitary District of Kirkbymoorside; which I beg to submit to your notice.

By accompanying Table A. may be seen that 89 deaths were registered during the twelve months ending December 1894. Equal to a death rate of 17.4 per 1000 inhabitants. The average death rate for the same period in rural districts throughout England was 16.6 per 1000, which is remarkable, being the lowest ever recorded 27 were persons who had attained their sixty-fifth year & upwards, while 18 were infants under one year, giving an infantile death rate of 12.5 per 1000 births. The average infantile death rate in country districts throughout England for last year being 13.7 per 1000.







Only 3 deaths were caused by Zymotic diseases,  
Viz Measles 2. whooping cough 1.

82 of these deaths were certified by registered  
medical practitioners. 2 by the coroner after  
inquests, and 5 cases in Farndale were uncertified.

Table B shows that 144 births were registered,  
giving a birth rate of 28 per 1000 inhabitants,  
which is rather higher than usual for this  
district, although still 1.6 per 1000 below the  
average for the Country during 1894.

Vaccination was well attended to.

16 nuisances were dealt with by the Inspector.  
During the month of January many children  
at Eirbymoorside suffered from a severe  
form of whooping cough, with bronchial &  
pneumonic complications.

In February there was a case of Enteric fever  
at Nunnington.

In April there were several cases of measles  
at Gillamoor and its vicinity, all resulting  
from a single accidentally imported case.  
During the latter part of August & the  
whole of September there were a number  
of Scarlet fever cases at Eirbymoorside,







only 7 of which were notified. Being of ~~an~~ an exceedingly mild type, all precautions were, in many instances, ignored. In fact medical aid was seldom sought after until dropsy had supervened, as the result of undue exposure during the "peeling" process.

Another case of Enteric fever too appeared at Nunnington. In this as well as the February case both admitted having been in the habit of drinking the water just as it had been taken from the river.

By and these, & a few cases of rather suspicious sore-throat, which cropped out from time to time, but which I should hesitate to call diphtheria, there is nothing further under this heading to report.

No special dearth of water occurred during 1894. the rain fall being considerably above average but as may be gathered from former reports, there are still a few villages very badly off for usable water. In population these villages only range from 100 to 300 persons, and as, in nearly every instance, a really wholesome water would have to be brought from a







distance, the cost would fall rather heavily on such small communities. The problem therefor, of ways & means is rather a difficult one.

Ordinary village wells, are as a rule unsafe, in so far as they are liable in many ways to pollution. A case in point was reported in the British Medical Journal last December, showing that even the depth of a well does not necessarily afford evidence of its purity.

"It seems that the sewage of about ~~thirty~~ twenty five persons was discharged into a quarry and disappeared in the sandstone rock. This went on from 1878 to 1892. In the direction of the dip, 800 feet away from the quarry, there was a well which yielded a pure water, until its depth was increased from 114 feet to 294 by means of a bore hole, when the water was for the first time found to contain organic impurity, which continued for six months after the sewage was diverted from the quarry, when the water ceased to afford evidence of pollution.

At the village of Nunnington two or three







wells have been sunk with the idea of obviating the necessity for the inhabitants resorting to the river Rye for their drinking water. The results remain to be seen. The situation of these wells is unfortunate, placed as they are, at the foot of the lime <sup>stone</sup> slope on which the village stands, with its rubble drains, and the churchyard at the summit, while on the other hand the river runs at no great distance.

Last Autumn the people of Wombledon were inconvenienced by the influx of filthy surface water into the village pump. It is a fairly deep well, and usually yields excellent water, but situated as it is on sloping ground and surrounded by pig sties, fold yards etc, it cannot well fail being subjected to a similar process from time to time. Some of the leading inhabitants are agitating for another supply from a safer source.

The people living on the east side of the village of Affleton-de-moors too, are ~~eagerly~~ now looking eagerly forward to some active steps being taken to provide them







with a suitable water supply.

I beg  
Gentlemen  
to remain

Your Obedient Servant

The Muir



M. O. H's  
Annual Report  
for the  
R. S. D.  
of  
Kirkbymoorice

1894.